

# Michigan Wellhead Protection Program



# What is Wellhead Protection?

- Nationwide effort to protect groundwater used by public water supply systems
- Resulted from amendments to Section 1428 of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act in 1986
- Required the states develop and implement a wellhead protection program (WHPP)
- Required WHPPs address “**seven elements**”
- Michigan’s WHPP approved by EPA in 1991.

**What it is not!**



# Seven Elements of WHPP

- 1) Roles and Responsibilities: identify WHPP team
- 2) Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA): delineate the area that contributes groundwater to wells
- 3) Sources of Contamination: inventory sources of contamination within the WHPA.
- 4) Management: develop methods/plan to manage the WHPA and minimize threat to water supply (e.g. land-use restrictions, BMPs)
- 5) Contingency Planning: personnel, equipment and procedures to respond to water supply emergencies
- 6) New Wells: incorporate new sources into WHPP
- 7) Public Outreach and Education: involve the community - administrators, customers, etc.

# WELLHEAD PROTECTION A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

## JAMESTOWN VIRGINIA'S SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

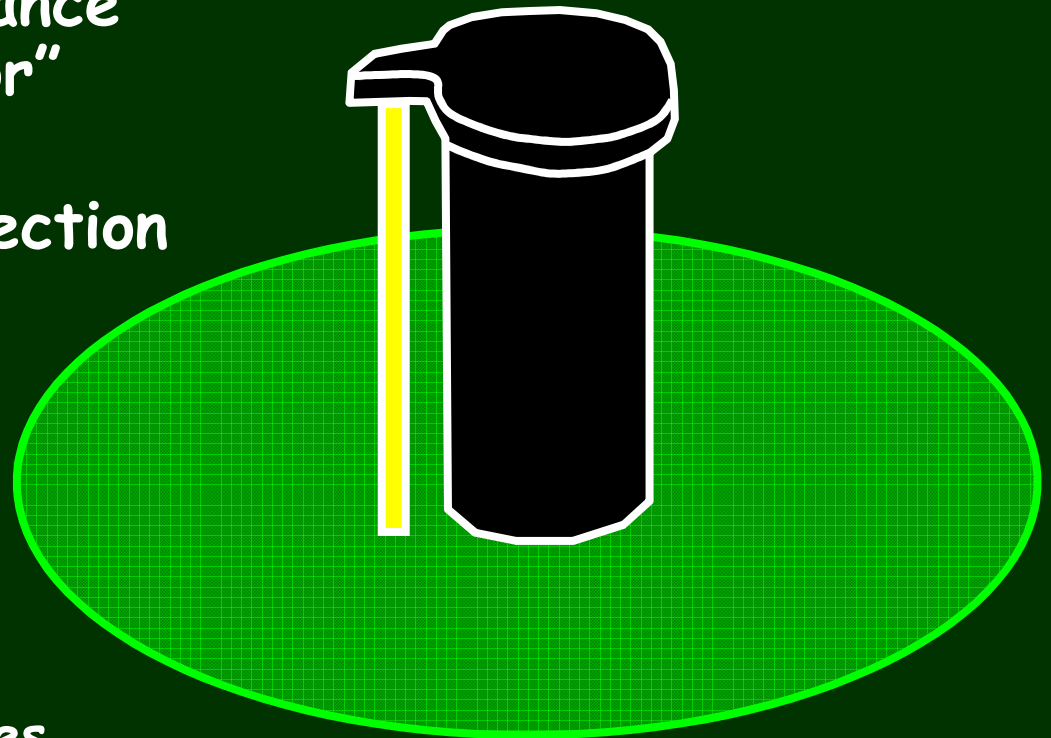
### THE PROCLAMATION - 1610

"There shall be no man or woman dare to wash any unclean linen, wash clothes...nor rinse or make clean any kettle, pot or pan, or any suchlike vessel within twenty feet of the old well or new pump. Nor shall anyone aforesaid within less than a quarter mile of the fort, dare to do the necessities of nature, since by these unmanly, slothful, and loathsome immodesties, the whole fort may be choked and poisoned."

*Governor Gage*

# Traditional Approach to Protecting GW Supplies

- Maintain Isolation Distance from “minor” and “major” sources
- Minor or Sanitary Protection Radius
  - Community – 200 feet
  - Noncommunity - 75 feet
- Major - existing and potential contaminant sources
  - LUST, landfills, 201 Sites, bulk chemical storage
  - Community – 2000 feet
  - Noncommunity - 800 feet



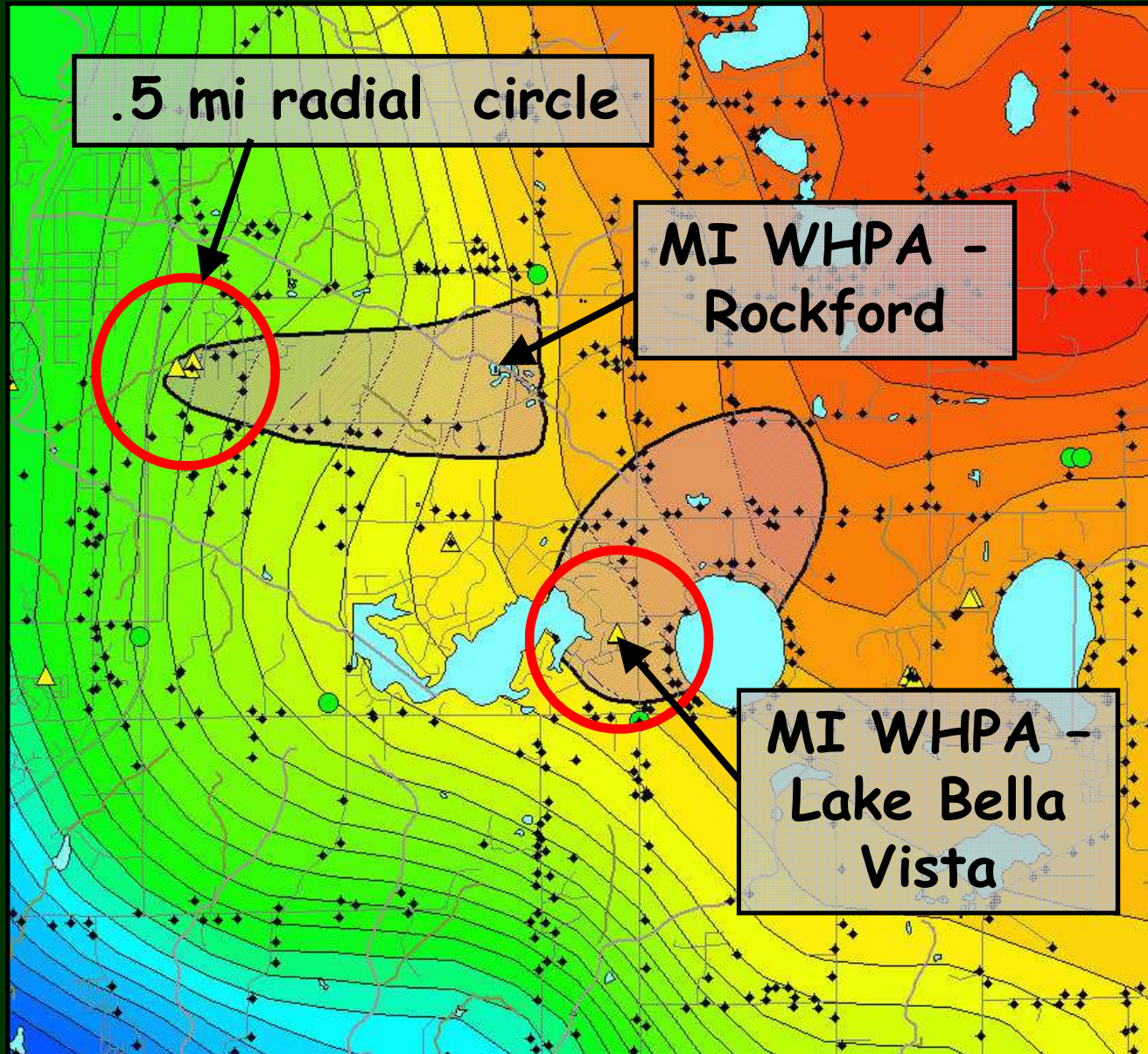
# Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA)

*The surface and subsurface area surrounding a water well or well field, supplying a public water system, through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach such water well or wellfield*

**WHPA = 10 year time-of-travel**



# GW Flow-Based Delineation vs Fixed Radius

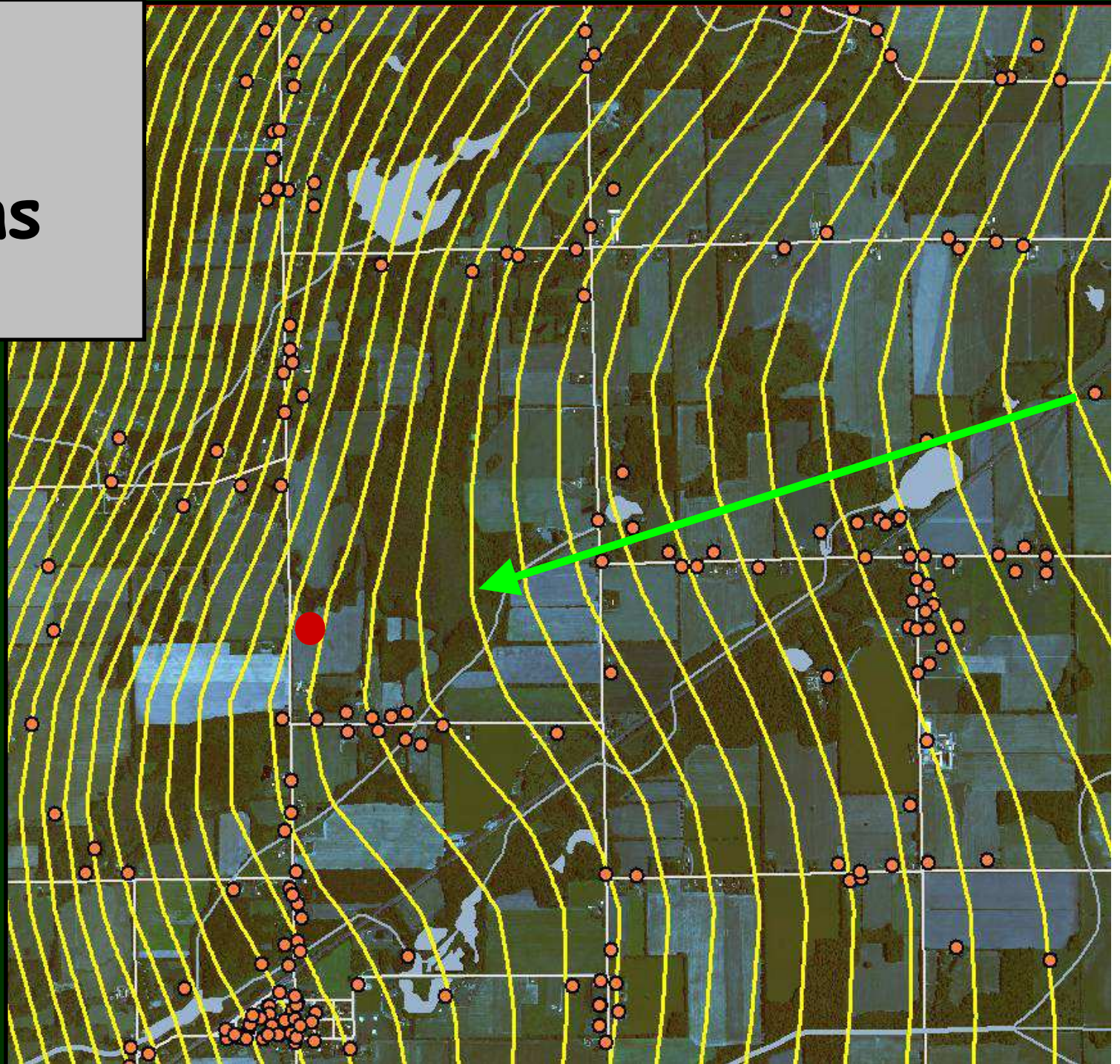


# What information is needed to delineate WHPA?

- Well Location
- GW Elevations
- Hydraulic Conductivity
- Pumping Rate

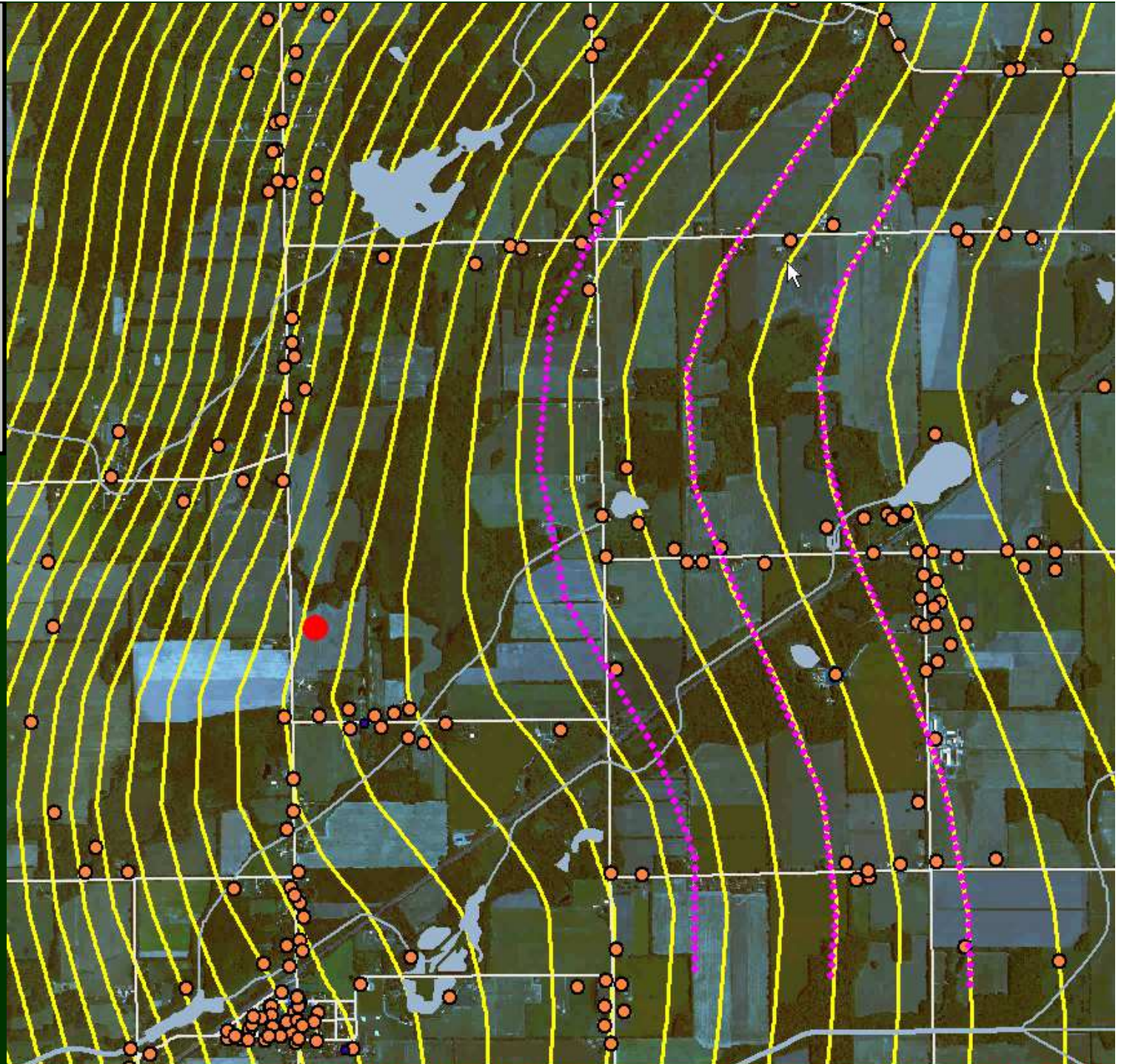


# Map GW Elevations





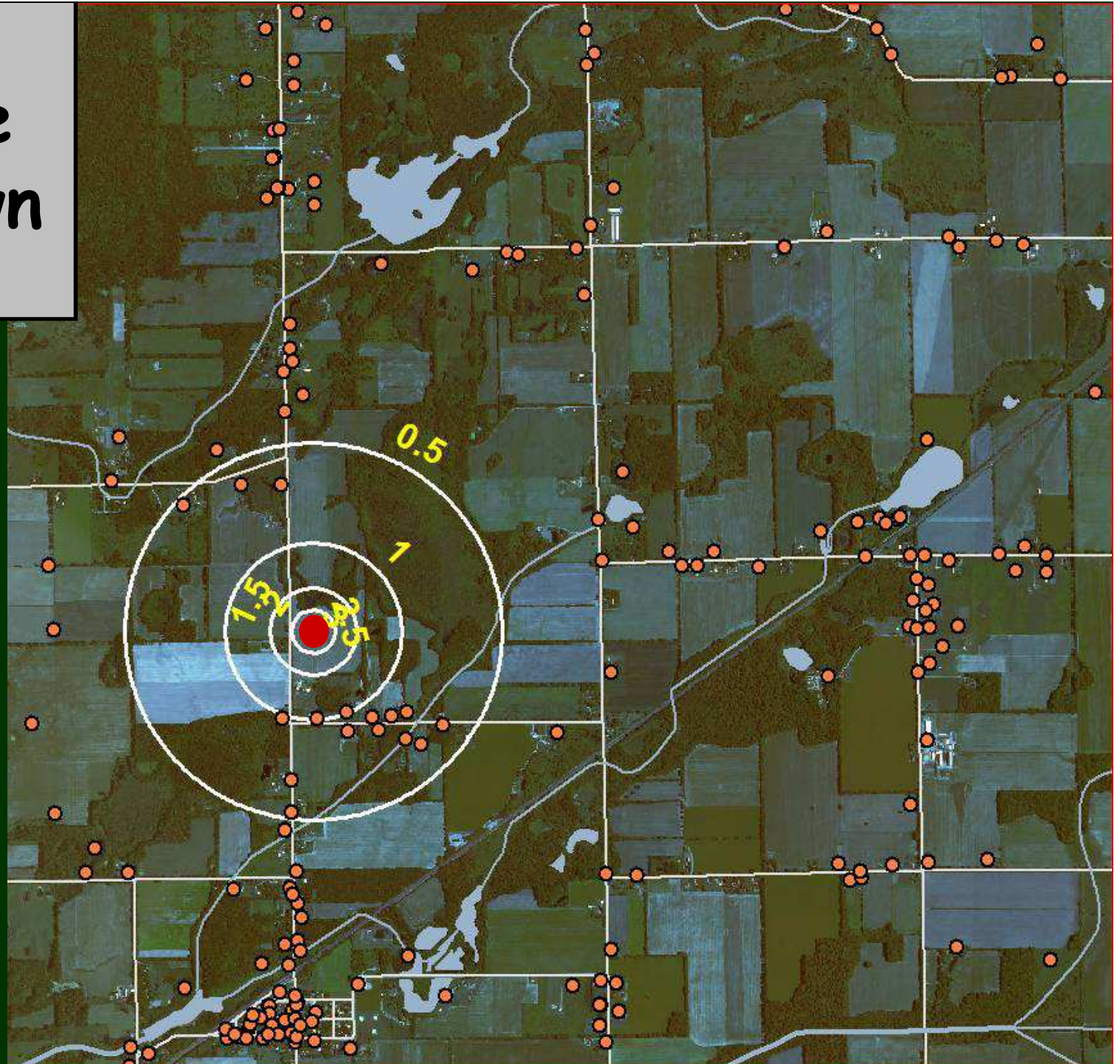
**GW  
Flow  
No  
Pumping**





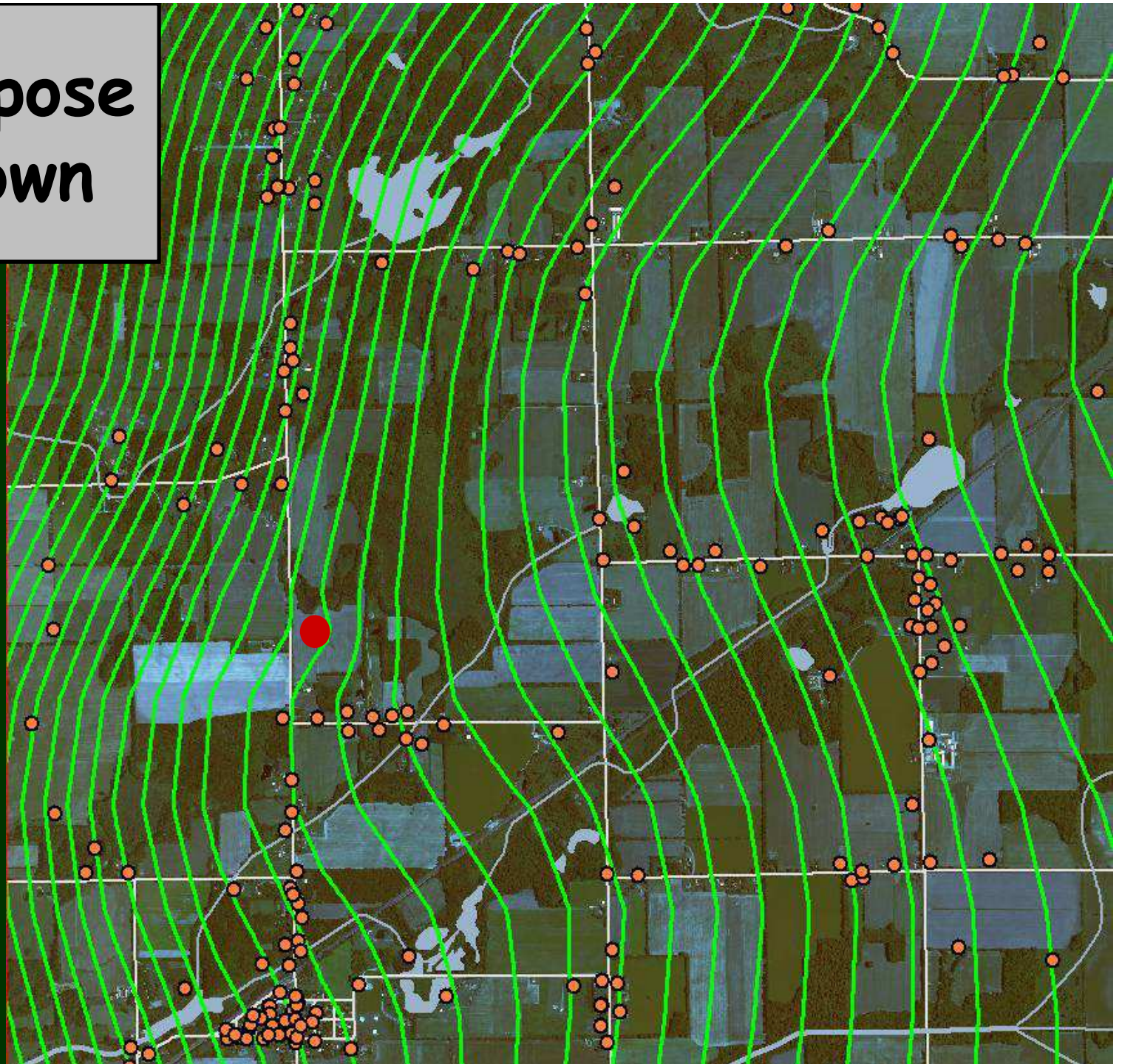
# Calculate Drawdown

100 Days  
continuous  
pumping



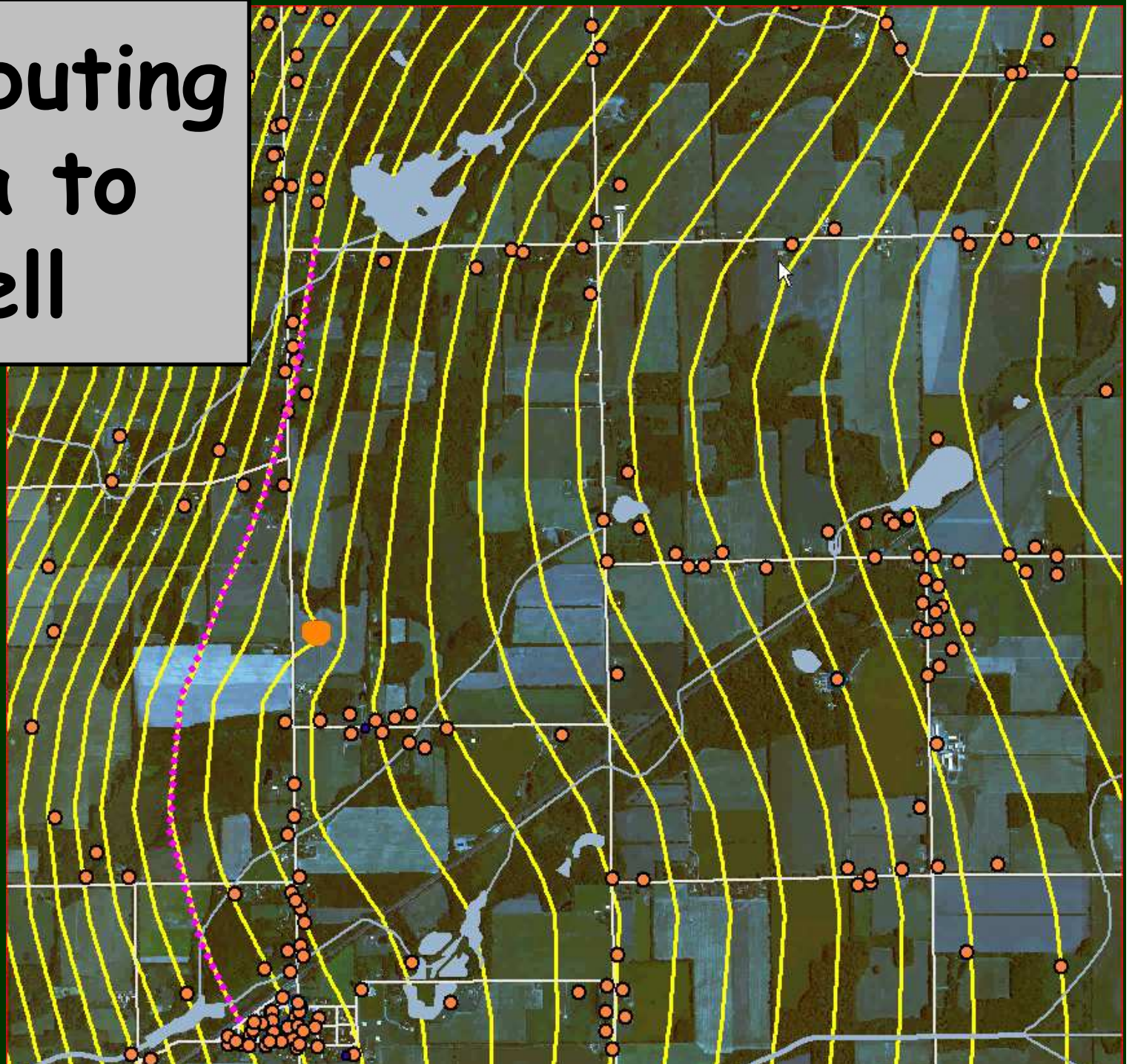


# Superimpose Drawdown



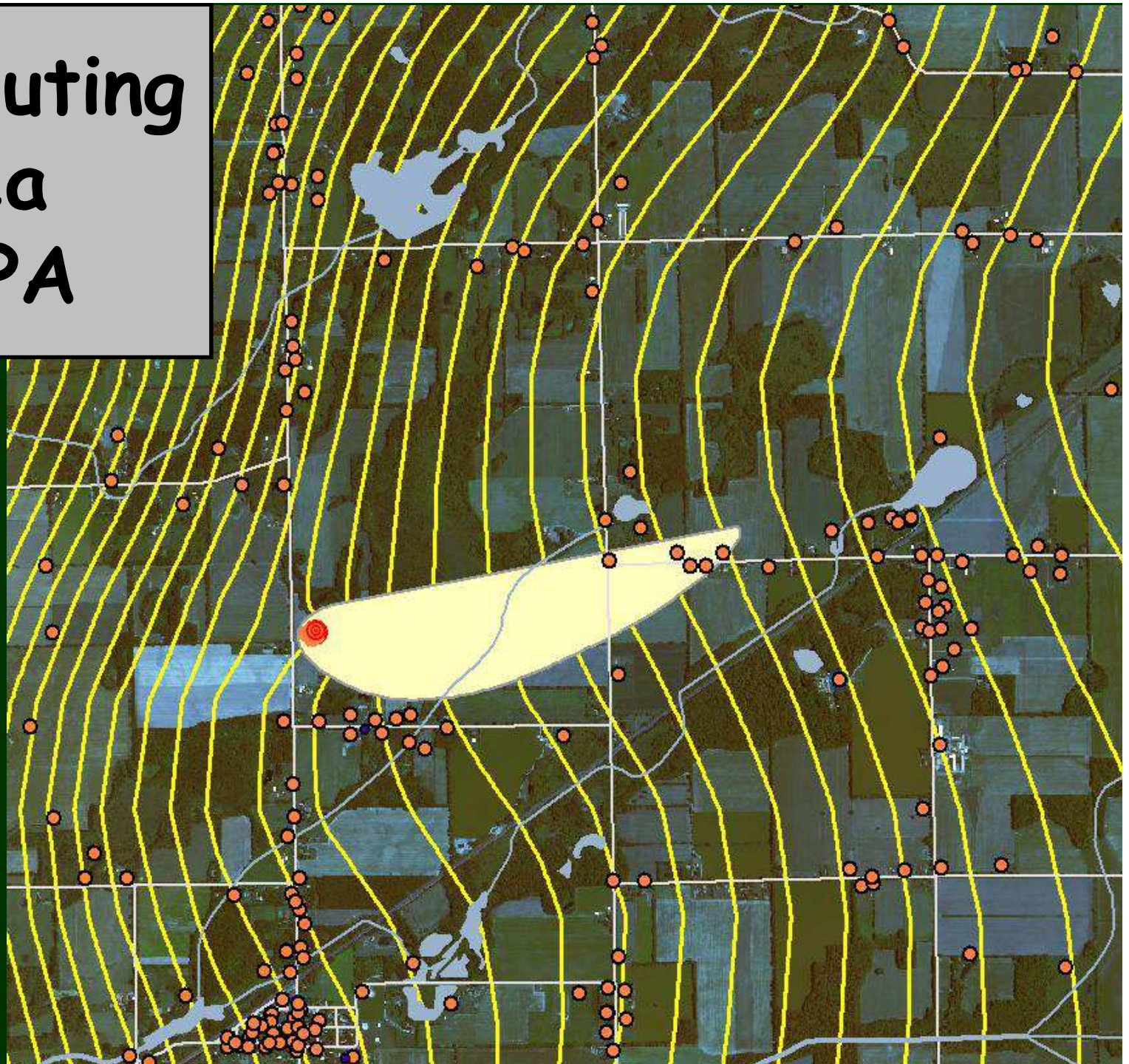


# Contributing Area to Well





# Contributing Area WHPA



# MGMT

Michigan  
Groundwater  
Management  
Tool





# MGMT

A tool for analyzing groundwater flow using available data

- Delineating WHPAs
- Contaminant migration
- Groundwater flow direction



Why Not Use  
Existing  
Information?



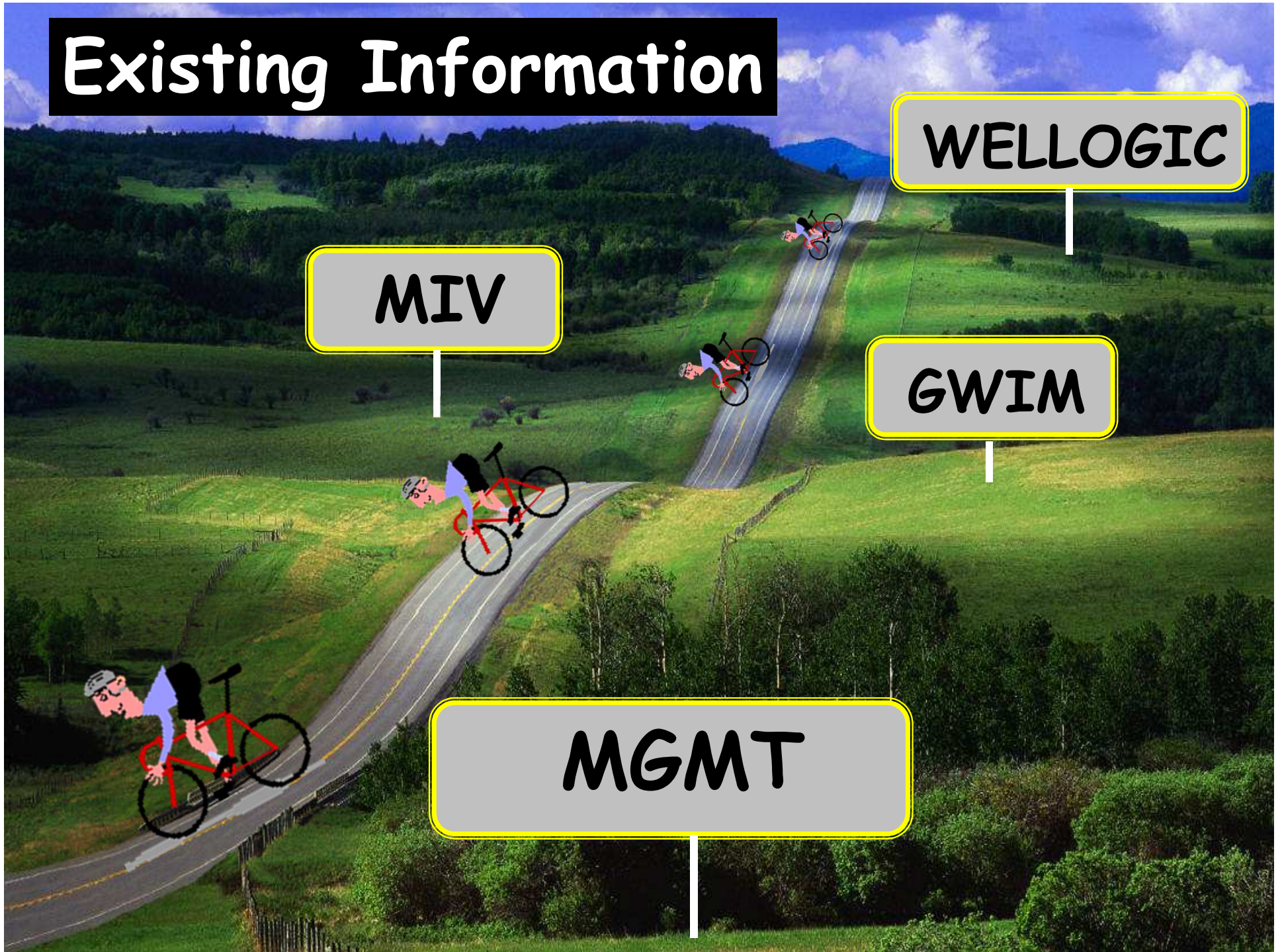
# Existing Information

WELLOGIC

MIV

GWIM

MGMT





# NECESSARY INFORMATION

- GW Elevation Map
- Hydraulic Conductivity
- Well Location
- Pumping Rate

# Available Data

## **WELLOGIC**

- Water Well Database
- ~541,000 Records
- Well Locations
  - Lat/Long
- GW Elevations
  - Land Surface
  - Static Water Level
- K Estimates
  - From the GWIM Project
  - Lithology and Land System based



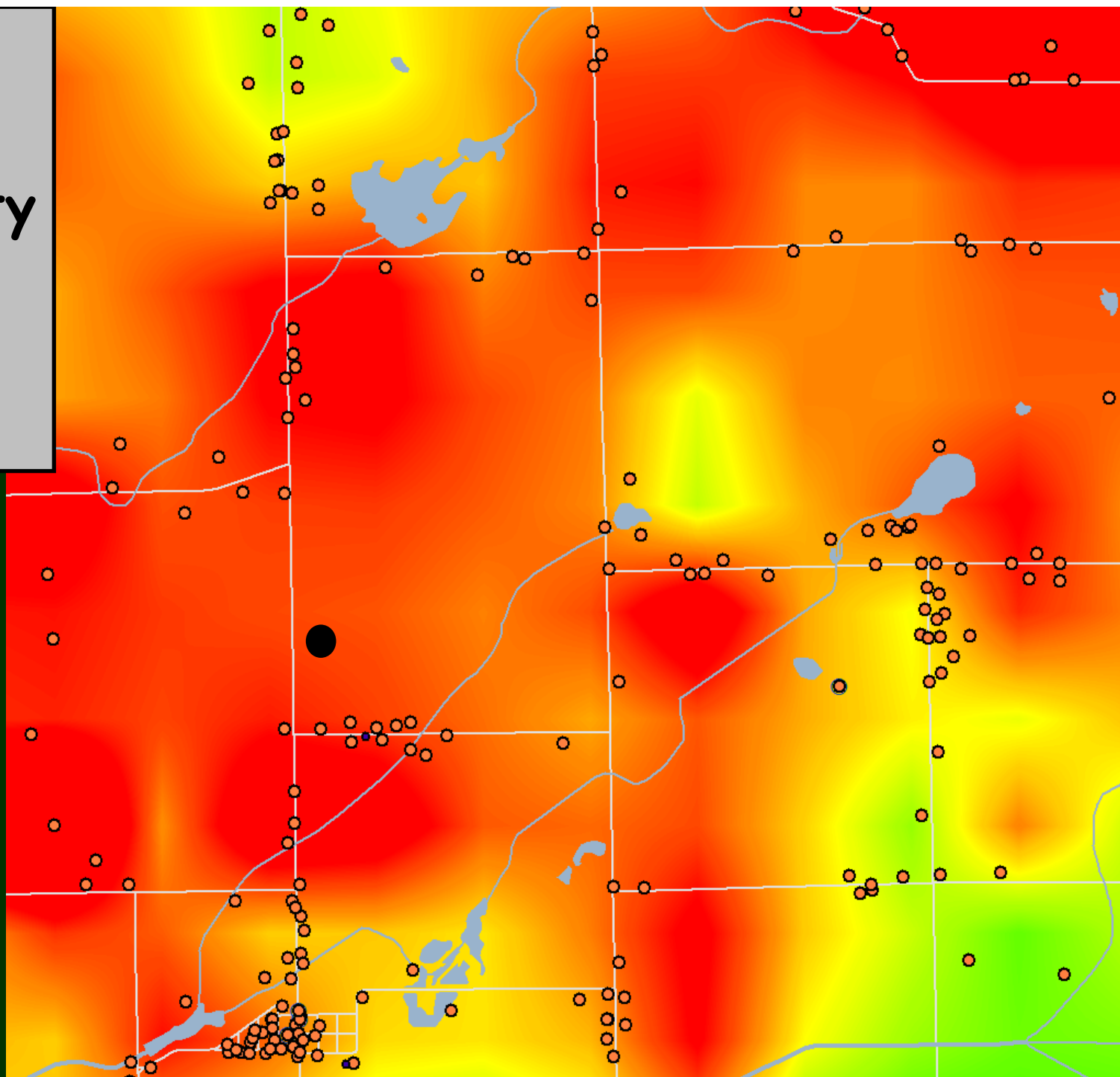


Estimate  
Hydraulic  
Conductivity

High

Medium

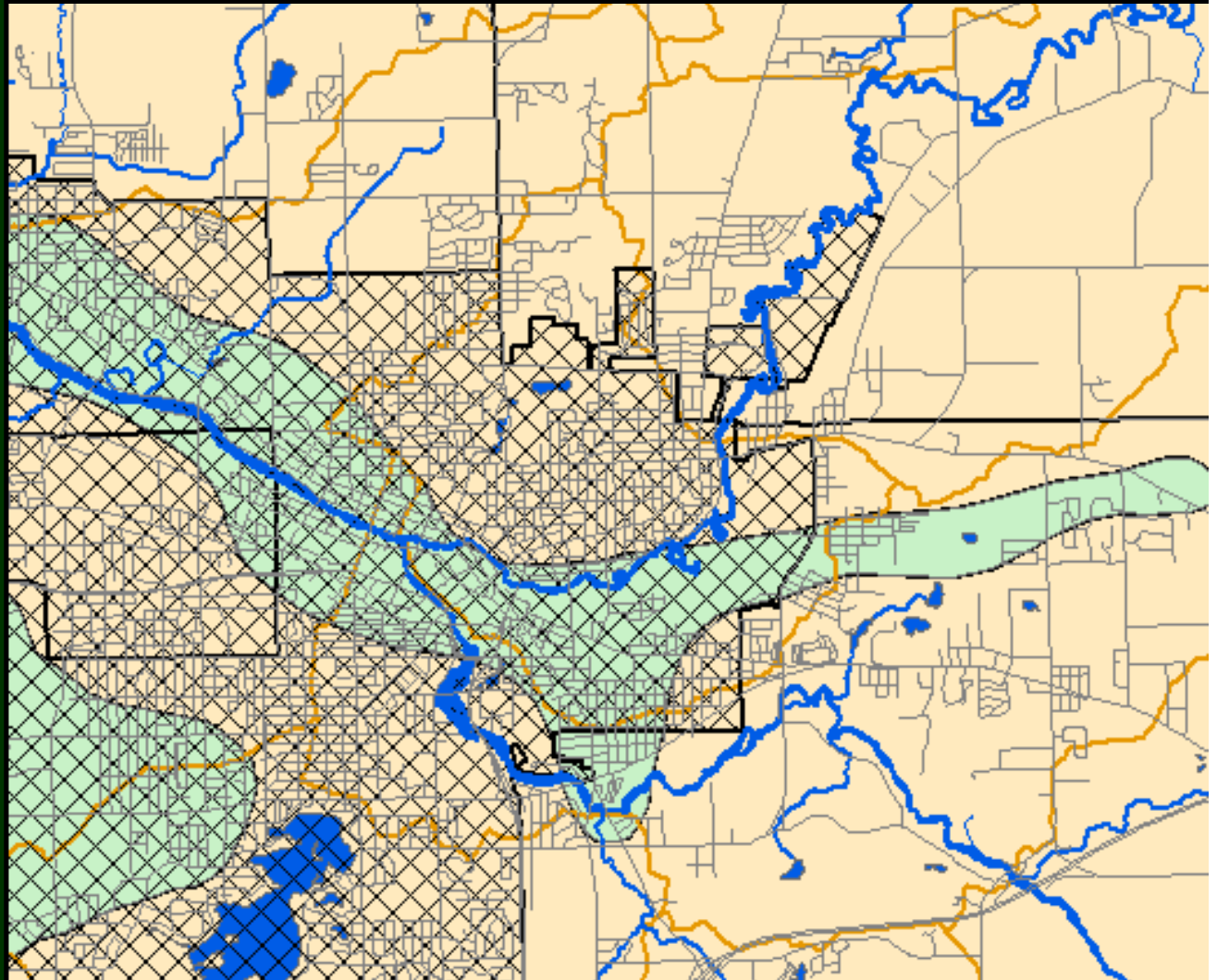
Low



# Michigan Geographic Data Library

- Political boundaries
- Roads
- Lakes
- Rivers
- Watershed boundaries
- Air photos
- Geologic maps
- etc.

## Other Available Data

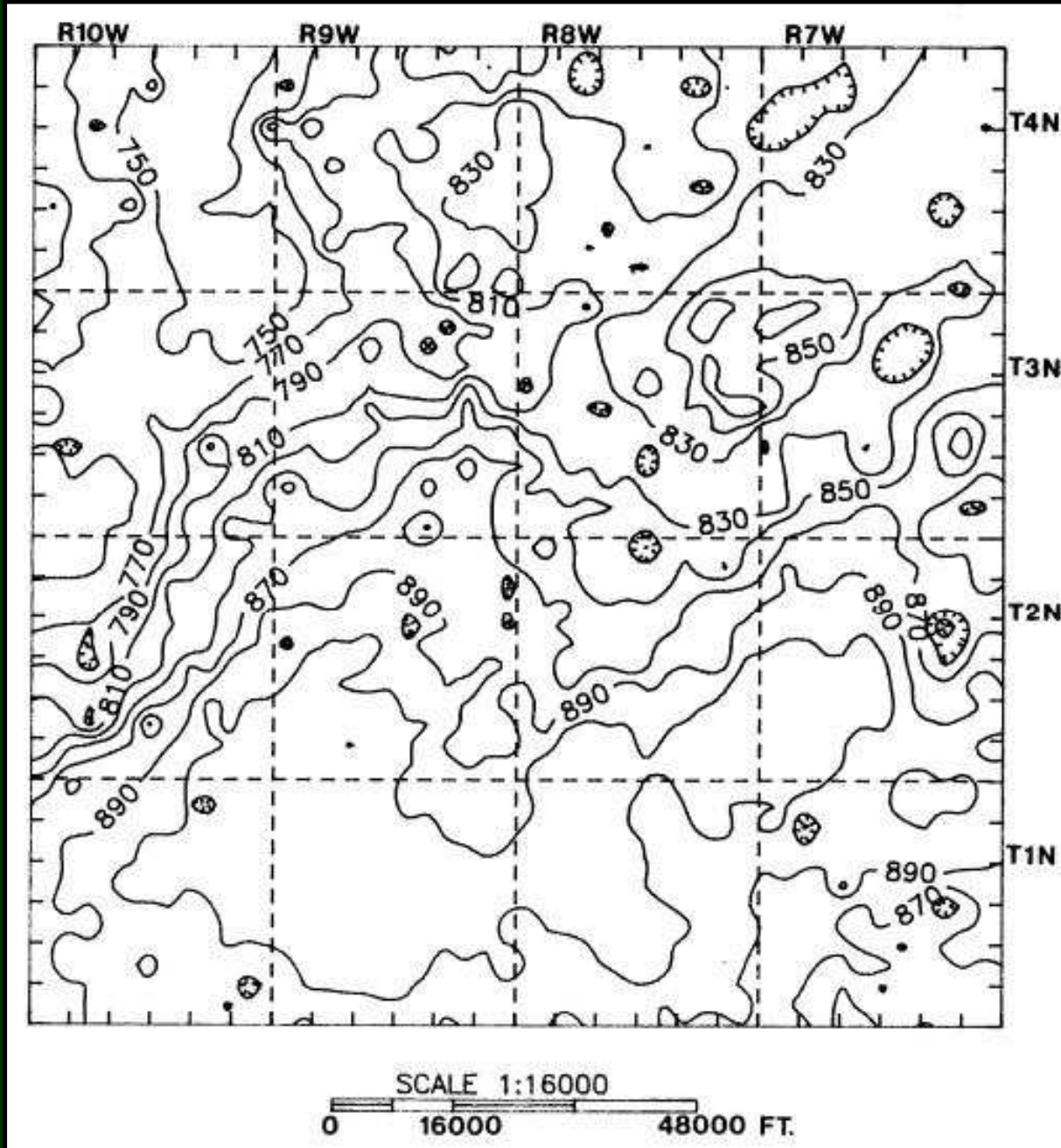




How Do We Map GW  
Elevations and Determine  
GW Flow Directions From  
Available Data?

# Potentiometric Surface from WELLOGIC Data

## Basic Kriging



# Data Processing

- Using water well records only
- Remove noise and data errors
  - Filtering
  - Outlier analysis
- Kriging
  - Data interpolation
  - Smooth surface depicting GW flow

# Filtering and Outlier Analysis

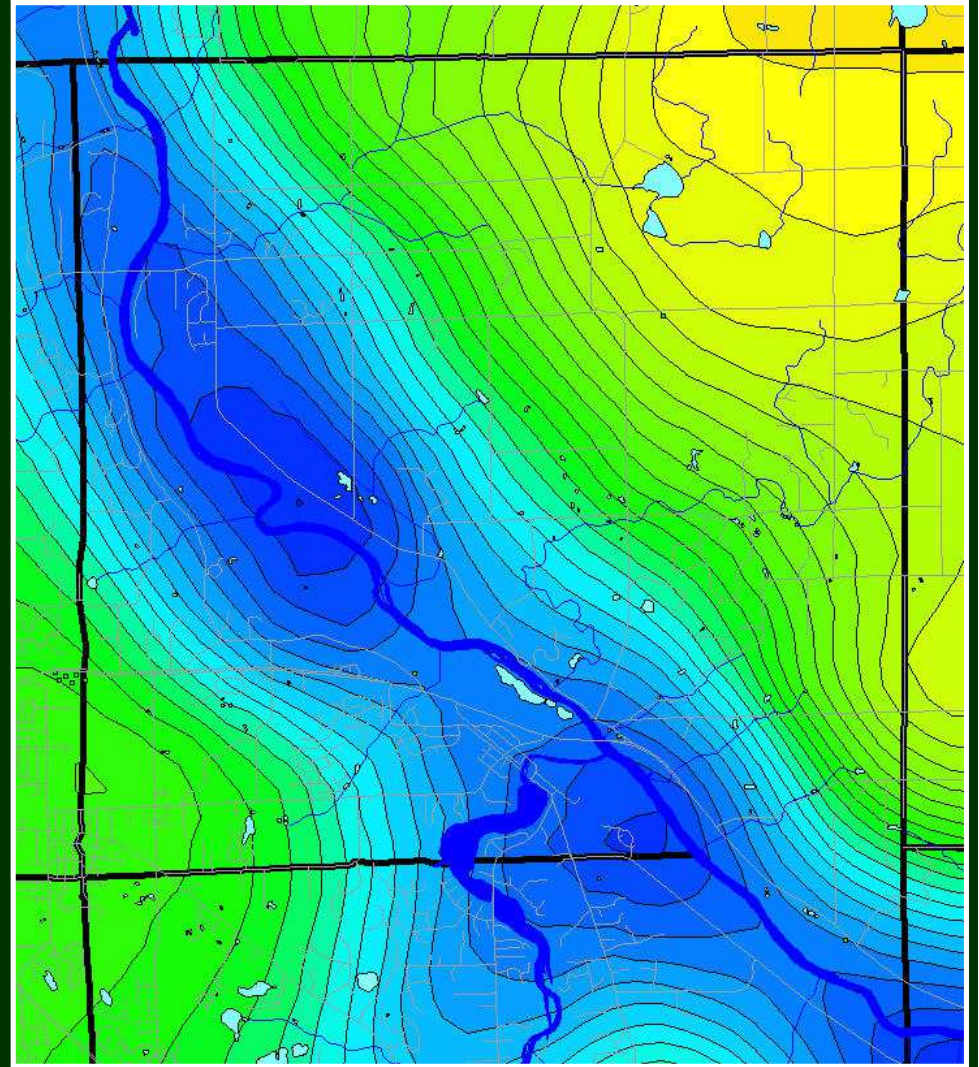
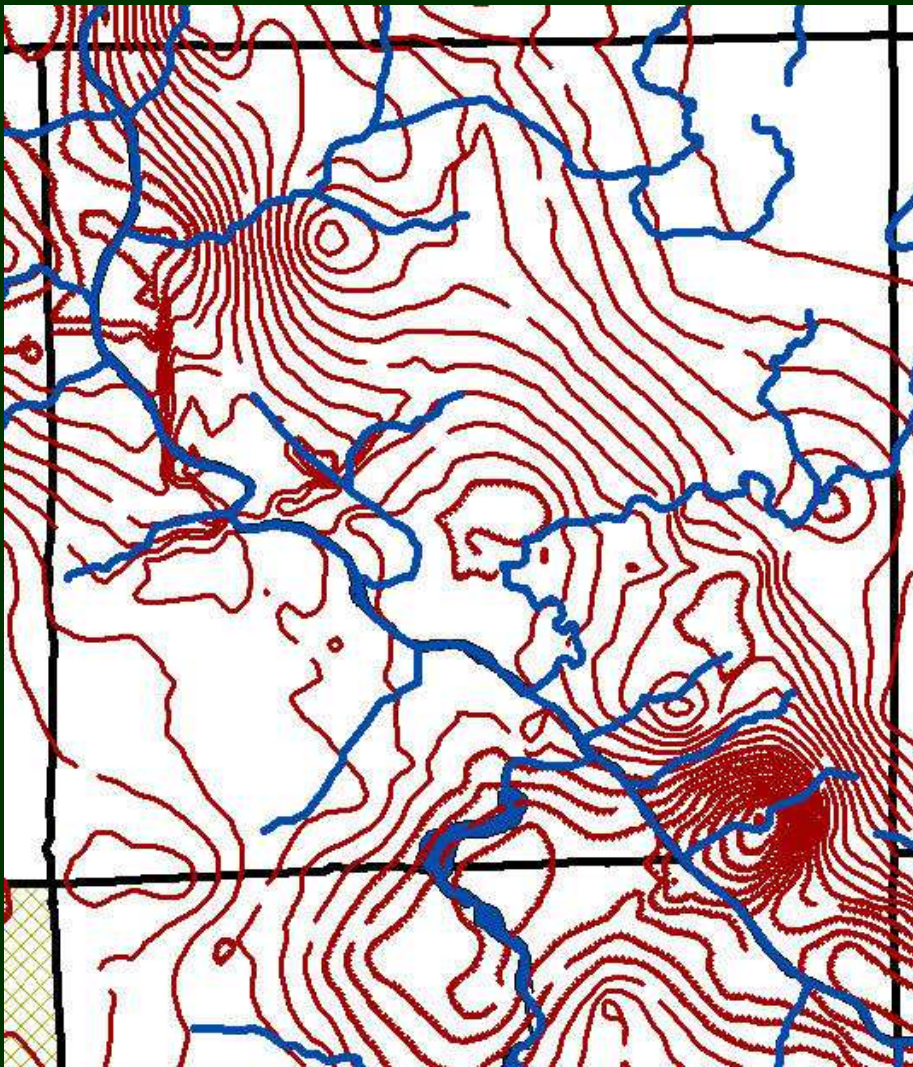




# Potentiometric Surface Comparison

**Standard Kriging**

**MGMT Kriging**





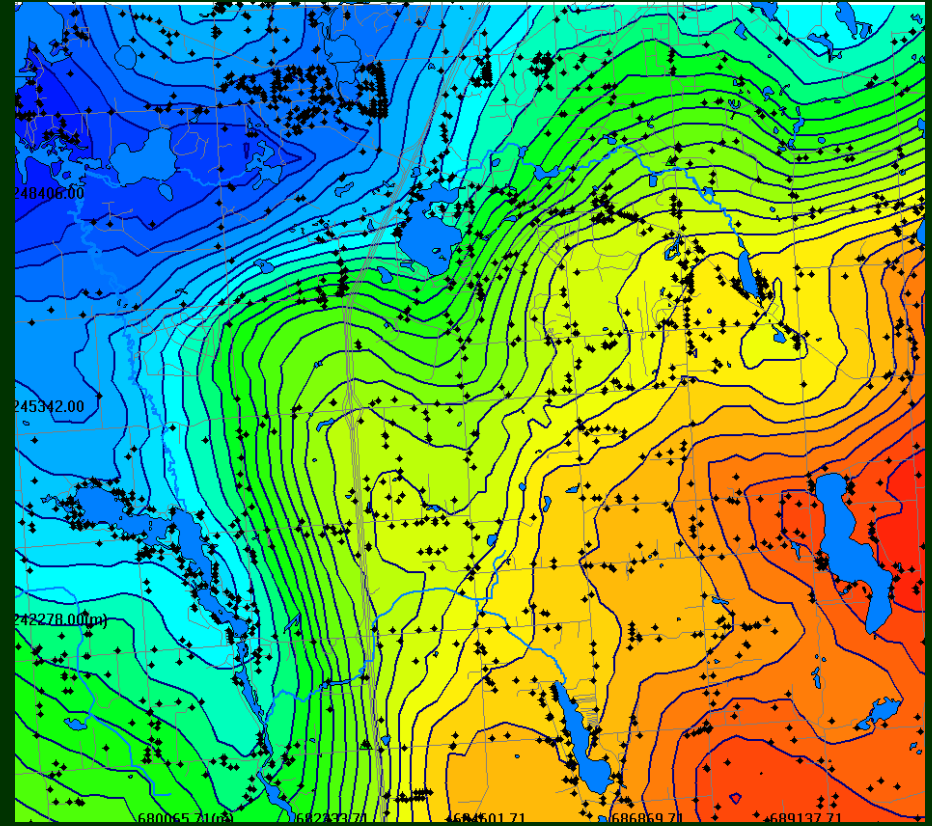
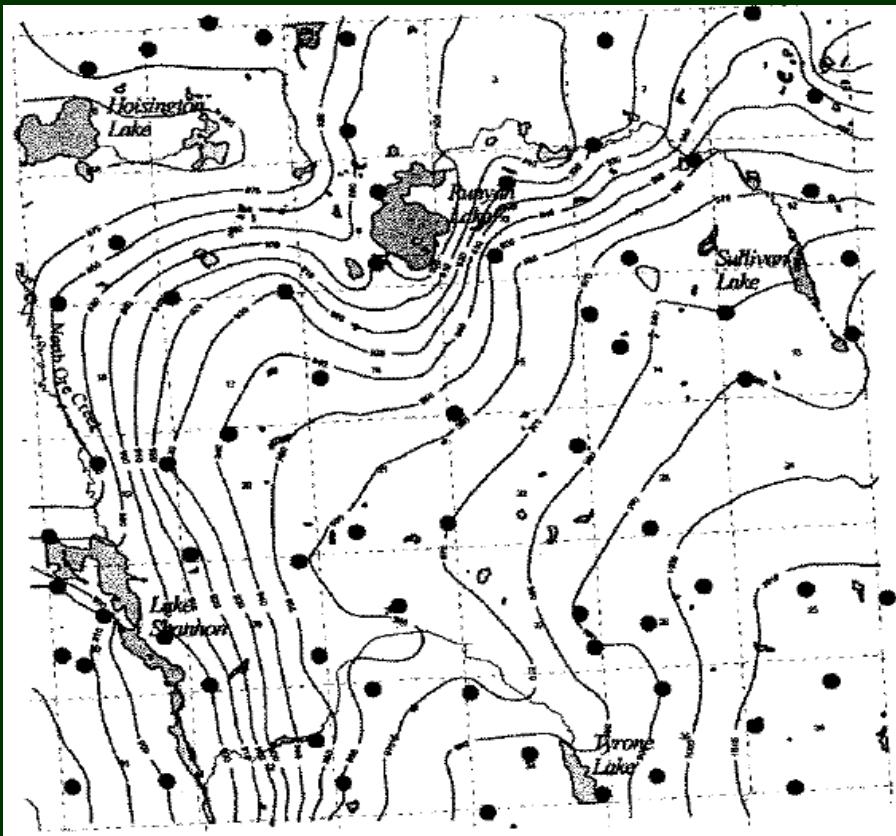
What Did We Do to Show  
That Our Data Processing  
Resulting in Correct GW  
Flow Directions?

Comparison Between  
Field-Generated Maps  
And  
MGMT-Generated Maps

# FIELD versus MGMT

Measured - 66  
points

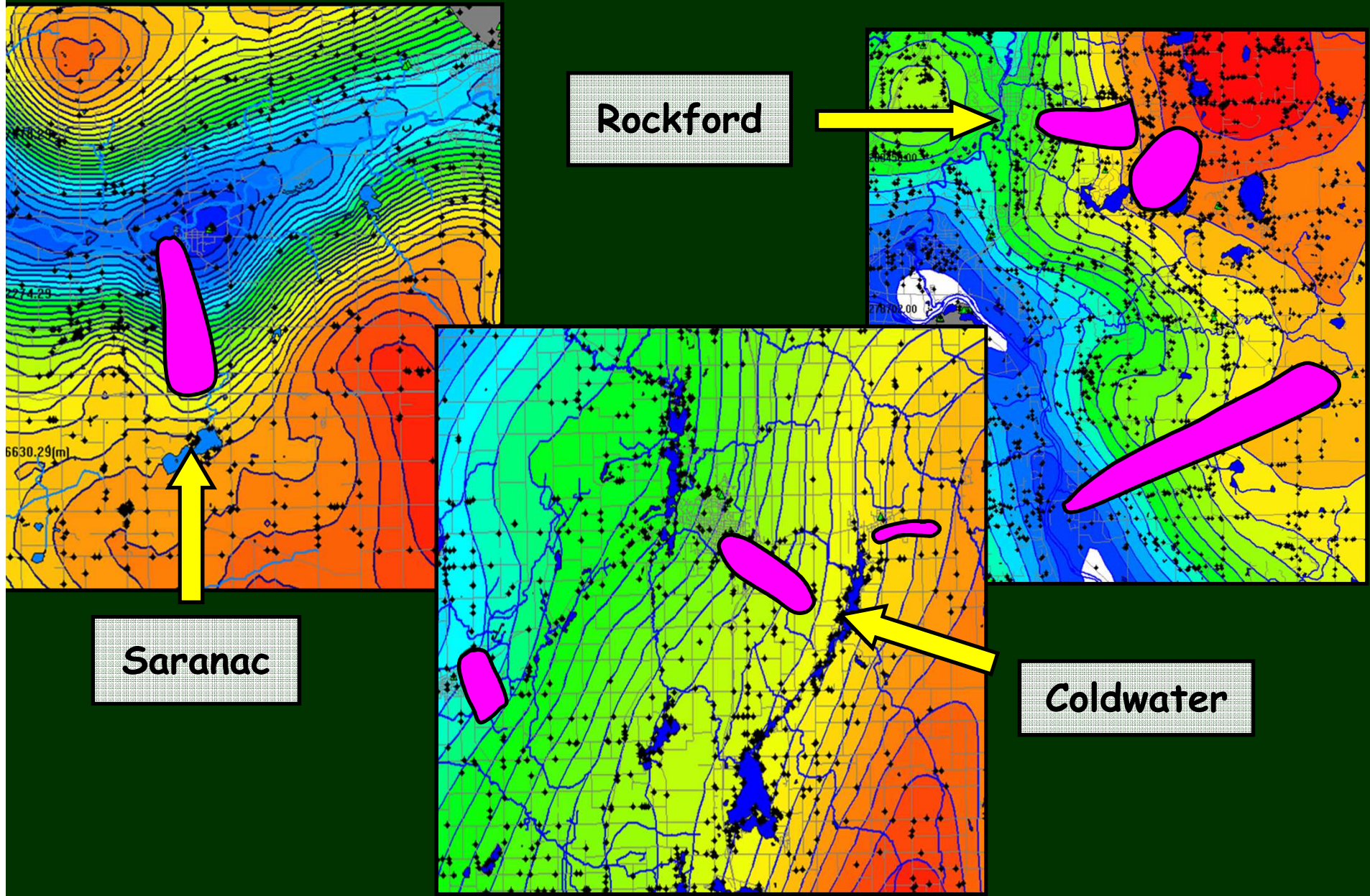
MGMT - 1737  
points



# Comparison between Orientation of Traditional WHPAs and MGMT Maps

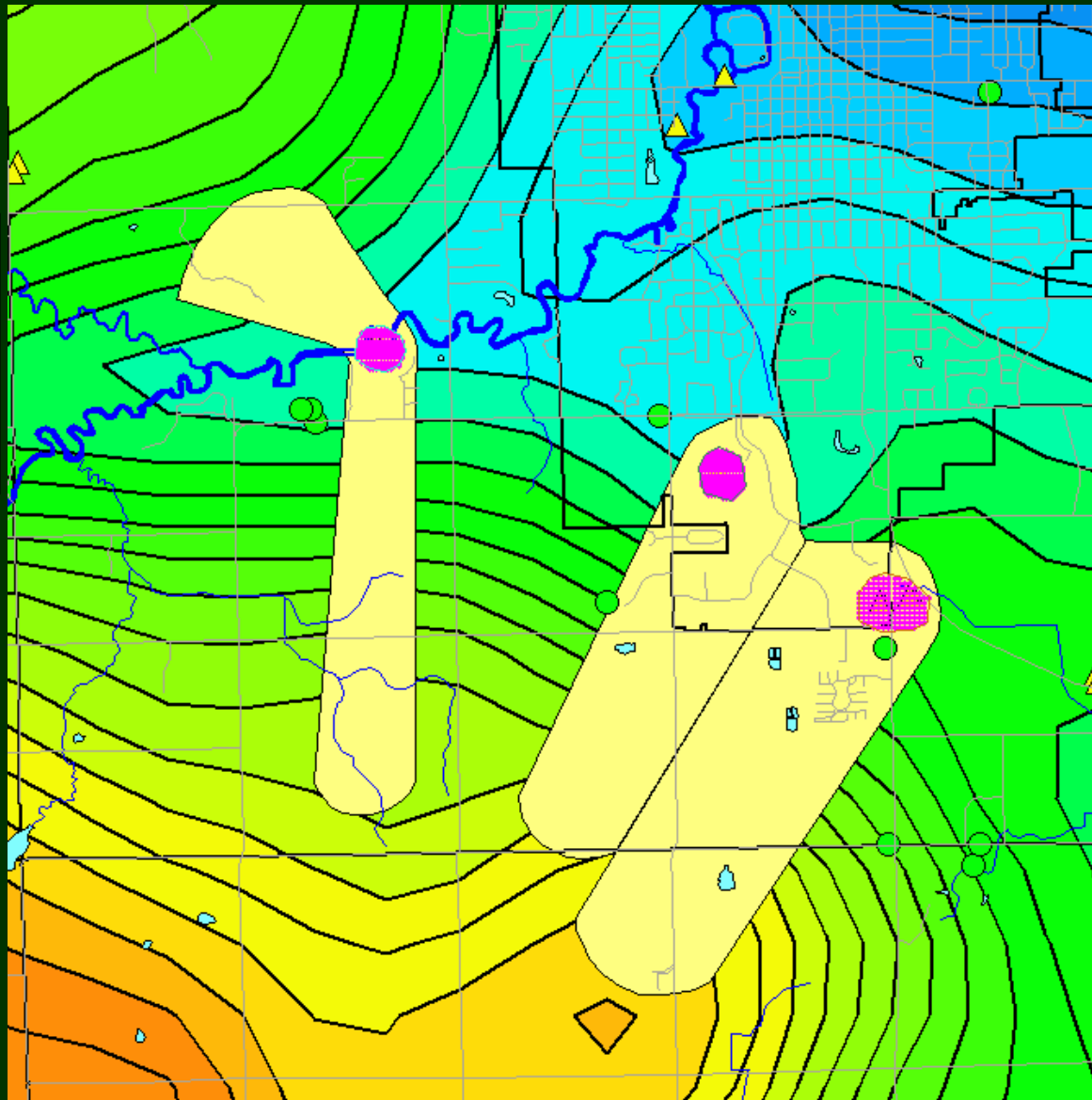


# GW flow direction Verification



# Compare traditional WHPA delineation with MGMT delineation

City of  
Mount  
Pleasant





# Proposed Uses of MGMT

- Delineation of “Provisional” WHPAs:
  - Community water supplies without the resources to complete WHPA delineations
  - Nontransient, Noncommunity water supplies
  - Completed district by district
- Evaluation of new well sites
  - Community
  - Non-Community systems

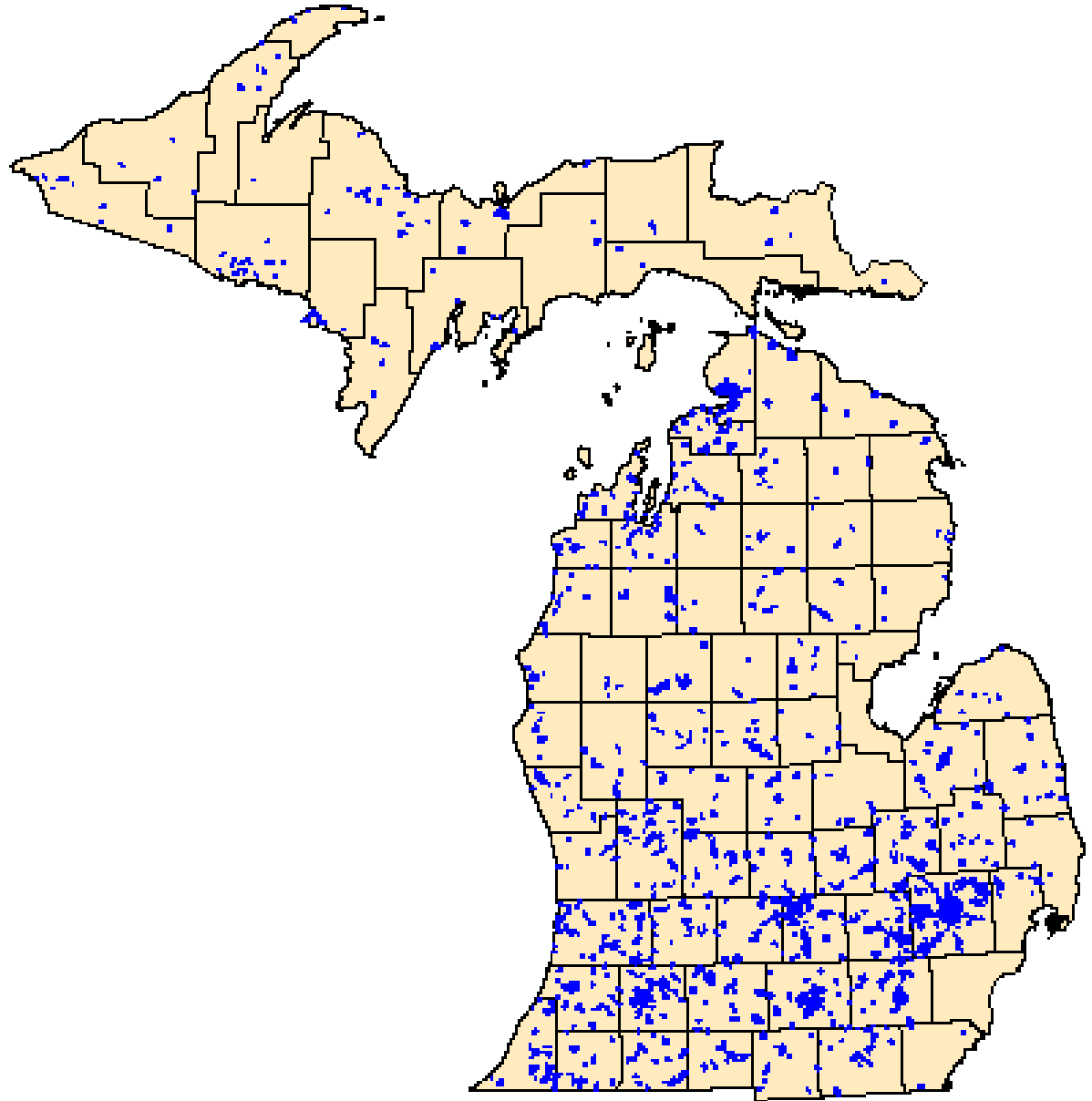
# Note on Provisional WHPAs

- Traditional WHPAs are differentiated from Provisional WHPAs
- Wellhead Protection activities in both are eligible for grant funds
- They do not eliminate the need or value of traditional WHPA delineations

# Community Water Supply Database

- 3,427 Wells  
Confirmed  
Locations  
Lat-Long
- WHPAs  
Traditional – 329  
Provisional – 890  
Low Tritium – 53  
**Total - 1272**

## Available Data



# Nontransient Noncommunity Water Supplies

- 1,841 Wells

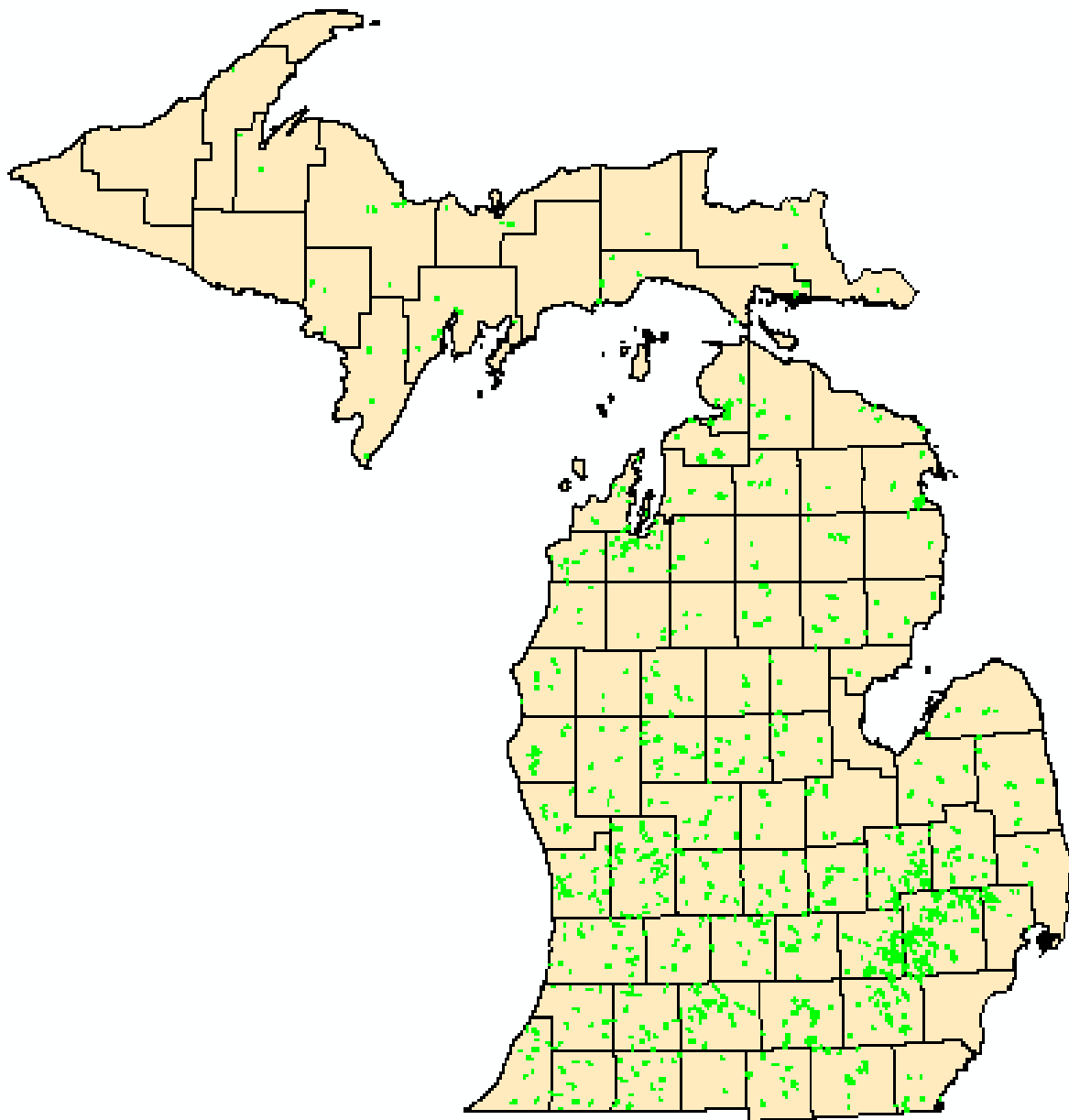
Location  
Confirmed  
with

Wellogic

- Provisional  
WHPAs

1394

## Available Data





# Post-MGMT WHPA STATISTICS

Area of Michigan

1270 WHPAs - 3161001.22 mi<sup>2</sup>

Low Vulnerability

Type II NTR WHPAs

53 SWPAs - 158.14 mi<sup>2</sup>

Traditional

329 WHPAs - 646.69 mi<sup>2</sup>

Total

2664 WHPAs - 2415.68 mi<sup>2</sup>

Total

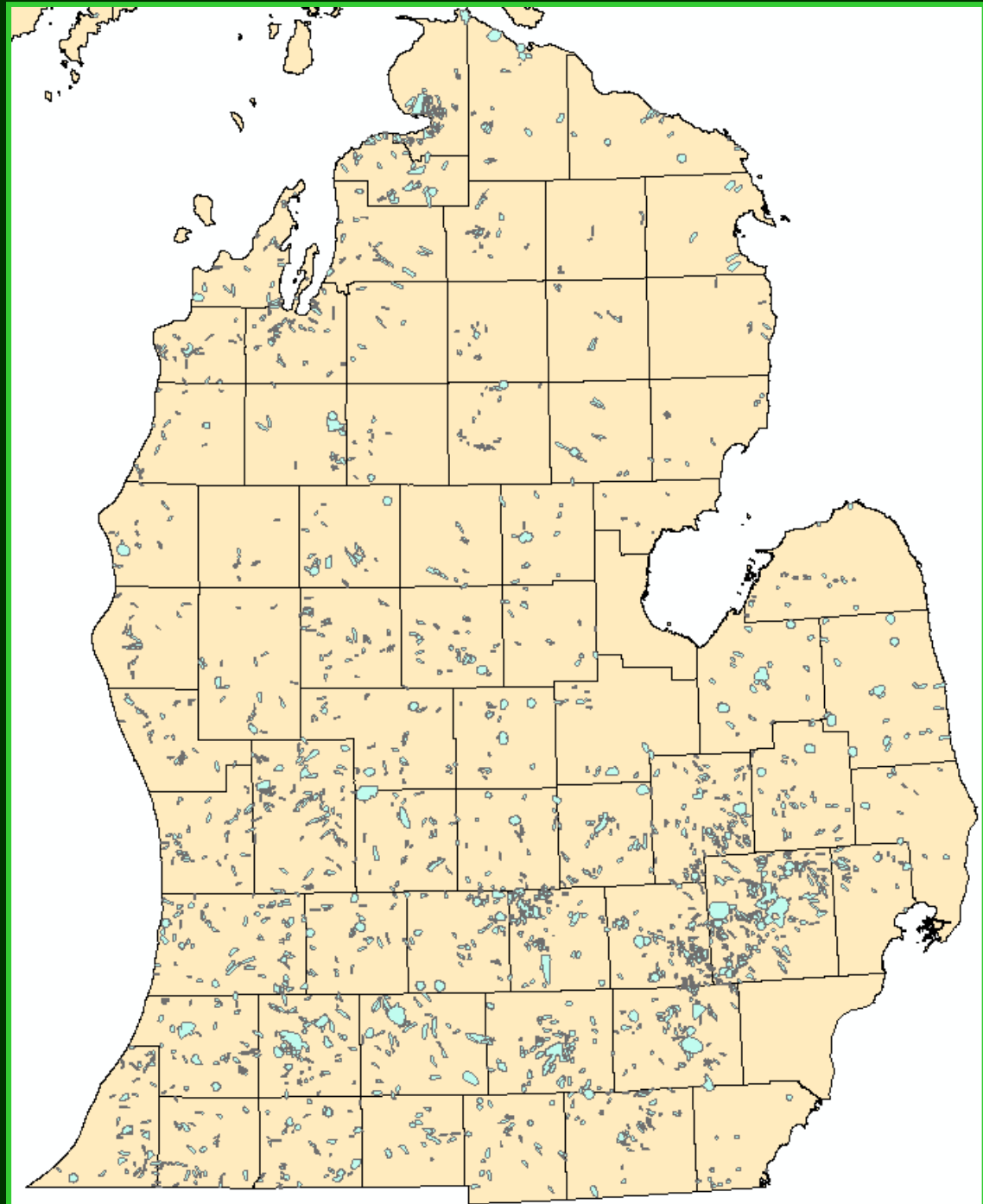
382 SWPAs or WHPAs

WHPAs as Percentage

804.83 mi<sup>2</sup>

2.498 %

Pre-MGMT: 0.832%



## **Pre – MGMT WHPA STATISTICS**

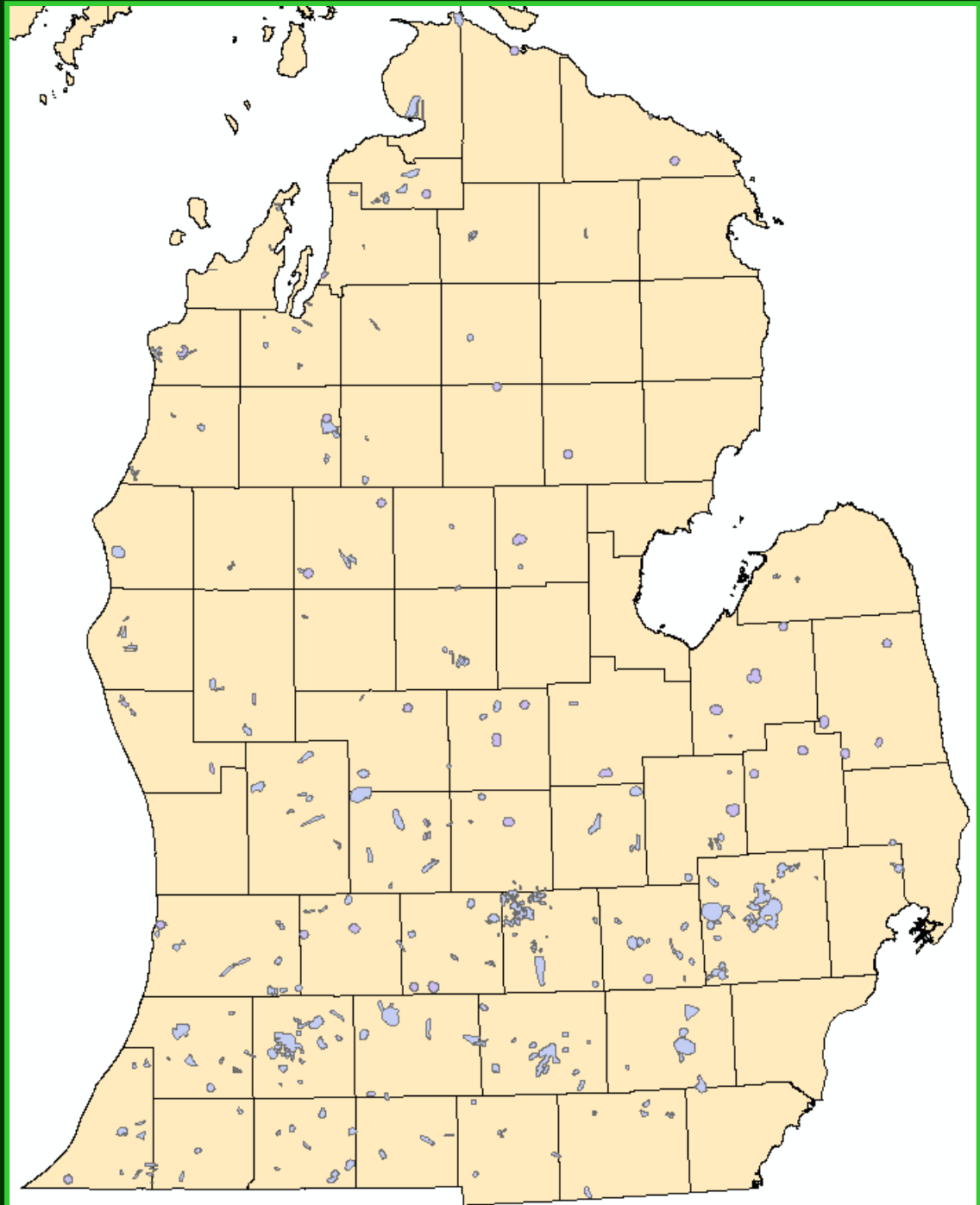
**Area of Michigan  
96,716 mi<sup>2</sup>**

**Low Vulnerability  
53 SWPAs - 158.14 mi<sup>2</sup>**

**Traditional  
329 WHPAs - 646.69 mi<sup>2</sup>**

**Total  
382 SWPAs or WHPAs  
804.83 mi<sup>2</sup>**

**Pre-MGMT: 0.832%**





## Post – MGMT WHPA STATISTICS

### Type I WHPAs

1270 WHPAs – 1601.22 mi<sup>2</sup>

### Type II NTR WHPAs

1394 WHPAs – 814.46 mi<sup>2</sup>

### Total

2664 WHPAs – 2415.68 mi<sup>2</sup>

### WHPAs as Percentage

2.498 %

